

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, after the title of the invention and before the first line, please add the following paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/458,938, filed December 10, 1999.--

At page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 15 and ending at line 27 as follows:

Conventional image processing systems such as a color copier obtain pixel data by scanning an original document, and perform various image processing steps on the data to produce output data suitable for delivery to a laser beam reproduction engine, an ink jet reproduction system, or the like. In particular, conventional image processing systems, such as that in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/954,226 (hereinafter referred to as CFM 595 US), entitled "Image Processing Apparatus And Method", first receive red (R), green (G) and blue (B) signals representing a scanned image from a charge-coupled device (CCD). The received signals are then subjected to image processing.